

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A server computer comprising:
 - a store arranged to store at least one computer file;
 - a store arranged to store at least one digital signature;
 - each computer file having an associated digital signature created using a signing key;
 - a receiver arranged to receive a request from at least one other computer for access to a computer file stored on said server computer, said request including a ~~pathname~~file name for the requested file, said file name not being derived by calculation from content of the file;
 - means arranged to use said ~~pathname~~file name to retrieve said at least one requested computer file;
 - means arranged to use said ~~pathname~~file name to retrieve the digital signature or signatures associated with said at least one requested computer file;
 - means arranged to ~~calculate~~validate the digital signature for said at least one requested file; and
 - ~~a comparator arranged to compare said calculated digital signature with said retrieved digital signature; and~~

means arranged to deny said other computer access to said at least one requested computer file if the ~~comparator finds said calculated digital signature associated with a requested computer file is invalid and said retrieved digital signature do not match.~~

2. (Previously Presented) A server computer as in claim 1 further comprising:
means arranged to store a list of approved computer file signing parties;
each computer file signing party having at least one associated signing key with which to create digital signatures; and in which

said means arranged to validate the digital signature associated each requested computer file invalidates said digital signature if said digital signature was created with a signing key not associated with an approved computer file signing party.

3. (Previously Presented) A server computer as in claim 1 further comprising a clock, wherein each computer file stored on said server computer has an associated expiry date; such that:

said means arranged to validate the digital signature or signatures associated with said at least one requested computer file invalidates said digital signature if the current clock date is later than the expiry date associated with that computer file.

4. (Currently Amended) A server computer arranged to store at least one file, at least one digital signature, each computer file having an associated digital signature created using a signing key, said server computer being arranged to perform the operation of:

receiving a connection from another computer;

receiving a request from said other computer for access to a computer file stored on said server computer, said request including a ~~pathname~~file name for the requested file, said file name not being derived by calculation from content of the file;

using said ~~pathname~~file name to retrieve said requested computer file;

using said ~~pathname~~file name to retrieve the digital signature associated with said requested computer file;

~~calculating~~ validating the digital signature for said requested file; and

~~comparing said calculated digital signature with said retrieved digital signature;~~

and

denying said other computer access to said at least one requested computer file if the ~~comparing step finds said calculated digital signature~~ associated with a requested computer file is invalid and said retrieved digital signature do not match.

5. (Currently Amended) A method of operating a server computer comprising:

receiving a request from at least one other computer for access to a computer file stored on said server computer, said request including a ~~pathname~~file name for the requested file, said file name not being derived by calculation from content of the file;

each said computer file having an associated unique digital signature created using a signing key, said signature being stored on said server computer;

using said ~~pathname~~file name to retrieve said at least one requested computer file;

using said ~~pathname~~file name to retrieve the digital signature associated with said requested computer file; and

~~calculating~~validating the unique digital signature or signatures associated with said at least one requested computer file; and

~~comparing said calculated digital signature with said retrieved digital signature;~~
and

providing said other computer with access to said at least one requested computer file only if the ~~calculated digital signature matches the retrieved digital signature~~ associated with requested computer file is valid.

6. (Previously Presented) A computer program storage medium, said medium embodying computer readable code for loading into a computer and executable by said computer to perform the method of claim 5.

7. (Currently Amended) A method of operating a computer system comprising at least one server computer, client computers and a network interconnecting them, said method comprising:

storing files at a server computer, said files being associated with a respectively corresponding digital signature;

receiving at said server computer a request from a client computer for a file stored at the server computer, said request including a ~~pathname~~file name for the requested file, said file name not being derived by calculation from content of the file;

in response to said received request, using said ~~pathname~~file name in checking the validity at said server computer of the digital signature corresponding to the requested file by retrieving the stored digital signature associated with the requested file ~~and comparing that to a freshly calculated digital signature for the requested file; and~~ sending the requested file to the requesting client computer only if its associated digital signature is found to ~~match the calculated digital signature~~ be valid.

8. (Previously Presented) A method as in claim 7 wherein at least one digital signature associated at the server computer with a stored file has been created from the file by the server computer using a signing key.

9. (Currently Amended) A method for operating a server computer, said method comprising:

storing files at the server computer in association with a respectively corresponding digital signature;

receiving at said server computer a request from another computer for at least one of said stored files, said request including a ~~pathname~~file name for the requested file, said file name not being derived by calculation from content of the file;

sending the at least one requested file to said another computer only if the stored digital signature associated with the requested file ~~matches a freshly computed digital signature for the requested file~~ is found to be valid.

10. (Previously Presented) A method as in claim 9 wherein at least one digital signature associated with a stored file has been created therefrom by the server computer using a signing key.

11-15. Cancelled.